

Application No. 10/650,584
Amendment dated June 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of making a nonwoven fabric comprised of a sodium ion count of less than 45 ppm comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first layer comprising staple length polymeric fibers;
- b. providing a second layer comprising natural fiber, wherein said natural fibers are selected from the group consisting of wood pulp, cotton, rayon, and the combinations thereof;
- c. juxtaposing the second layer upon the first layer; and
- d. applying a hydraulic energy to said juxtaposed layers through a plurality of hydraulic manifolds to form a nonwoven fabric;
- e. applying an acid wash to said nonwoven fabric;
- f. rinsing said nonwoven fabric; and
- g. drying said nonwoven fabric.

Claim 2 (original). A method of making a nonwoven fabric comprised of a sodium ion count of less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibers are selected from the group consisting of thermoset and thermoplastic fibers.

Claim 3 (currently amended). A method of making a nonwoven fabric comprised of a sodium ion count of less than 45 ppm as in claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, and the combinations thereof.

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Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (original). A method of making a nonwoven fabric comprised of a sodium ion count of less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, wherein said acid wash is comprised of acetic acid and de-ionized water.

Claim 6 (currently amended). A wipe comprised of a sodium ion particle count of less than 45 ppm wherein said wipe is comprised of hydroentangled synthetic fiber and wood pulp and subsequently exposed to an acetic acid and de-ionized water wash, said wipe being suitable for household, medical, industrial, and electronic applications.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A method of making a nonwoven fabric comprised of a sodium ion count of less than 25 ppm comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first layer comprising staple length polymeric fibers;
- b. providing a second layer comprising natural fiber;
- c. juxtaposing the second layer upon the first layer; and
- d. applying a hydraulic energy to said juxtaposed layers through a plurality of hydraulic manifolds to form a nonwoven fabric;
- e. applying an acid wash to said nonwoven fabric, wherein said acid wash is comprises comprised of acetic acid and de-ionized water;
- f. rinsing said nonwoven fabric; and
- g. drying said nonwoven fabric.

Claim 8 (previously presented). A method of making a nonwoven fabric comprised of a sodium ion count of less than 25 ppm as in claim 7, wherein said polymeric fibers are selected from the group consisting of thermoset and thermoplastic fibers.

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Claim 9 (previously presented). A method of making a nonwoven fabric comprised of a sodium ion count of less than 25 ppm as in claim 8, wherein said thermoplastic fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, and the combinations thereof.

Claim 10 (previously presented). A method of making a nonwoven fabric comprised of a sodium ion count of less than 25 ppm as in claim 7, wherein said natural fibers are selected from the group consisting of wood pulp, cotton, rayon, and the combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented). A wipe comprised of a sodium ion particle count of less than 25 ppm wherein said wipe is comprised of hydroentangled synthetic fiber and wood pulp and subsequently exposed to an acetic acid and de-ionized water wash said wipe being suitable for household, medical, industrial, and electronic applications.